

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant responds to the Office Action mailed on March 31, 2003. A Petition for Extension of Time (one month) and the fee therefor are enclosed.

Preliminarily, applicant notes the objection to the drawings and encloses herewith copies of Figures 1-5 which now include the legend "PRIOR ART", as requested in the Office Action.

Further in response to paragraph 2 of the Office Action, an Abstract of the Disclosure is provided in a separate sheet attached to the Amendment.

Substantively, claims 1-5 stand rejected on grounds of anticipation by Kainuma, et al. (4,427,906). Alternatively, claims 1-4 stand rejected on grounds of anticipation by Park, et al. (5,993,178). In actuality, the rejections on art that are of record have been rendered moot by the cancellation of claims 1-5, without prejudice.

Relative to newly introduced claims ~~6-9~~⁸, applicant respectfully submits that neither of claims ~~6-9~~⁸ is anticipated or rendered obvious by the prior art of record. These claims contain limitations that are not present in the prior art.

To assist and facilitate the further examination of the application, applicant provides the following general remarks without intending that any of the remarks constitute limitations to the language of the claims themselves, inasmuch, as the language of the claims exclusively should be utilized to determine the novelty and non-obviousness of the claimed subject matter over the prior art.

The object of applicant's claimed invention is to provide a piston supporting structure for a linear compressor, wherein the spring support members respectively fixed on both sides of the piston are formed to prevent each end of the first and second springs supported on both sides of the piston from being moved in a radial direction thereof, while the spring support members respectively fixed on the cover and the inner lamination are formed to allow each end of the first and second springs respectively supported on both the cover and the inner lamination to be moved in a radial direction thereof, and thus to prevent a radial eccentric deformation of any of the first and second springs, as shown in Figure 4. The arrangement prevents movement that may otherwise cause abrasion between the friction producing portions of the compressor.

Prior
art
vs.
invention

Therefore, the spring support structure of a linear compressor comprises a first spring support member fixed on the cover member and formed of a ring shaped plate on which one end of the first

spring is supported to be movable in a radial direction of the first spring. Further, a second spring support member is fixed on one side of the piston, the second spring support member having a ring shaped plate portion on which another end of the first spring is supported. A circumferential unit extends from an inner circumference of the ring shaped plate portion in an axial direction of the piston for being fixed with an inner circumference of the first spring. A third spring support member is fixed on an opposite side of the piston on which the second spring support member is fixed, the third spring support member having a ring shaped plate portion on which one end of the second spring is supported and a circumferential unit extends from an inner circumference of the ring shaped plate portion in an axial direction of the piston for being fixed with an inner circumference of the second spring. A fourth spring support member is fixed on the inner lamination and formed of a ring shaped plate portion on which another end of the second spring is supported to be movable in a radial direction of the second spring.

Kainuma fails to disclose at least the feature that the ends of the first and second springs are respectively movably supported by the spring fixing supporting members. Namely, the first and second spring are respectively tightly fixed in the spring fixing supporting members by being inserted therinto, and the ends of the first and second springs cannot be moved in a radial direction thereof.

Park fails to disclose at least the feature that each end of the first and second springs is respectively movably supported by the spring fixing supporting members as above described. Accordingly, since the ends of the first and second springs of Kainuma and Park are rigidly or tightly fixed by the spring fixing support members, radial eccentric deformation of the springs may be generated.

As described above, applicant's claimed invention is patentably distant from Kainuma and Park and the applicant's claimed invention improves over Kainuma and Park.

Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the newly introduced claims, allow the same and pass this case to issue.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on July 30, 2003:

Max Moskowitz

Name of applicant, assignee or
Registered Representative

Signature
July 30, 2003

Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,

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